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PSYX 525.01: Psychological Evaluation I

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Psyx 525 – Psychological Evaluation I

Fall 2014

Course Location and Time

Skaggs 246

Monday and Wednesday 9:40 – 11:00

“Optional” Q&A/Hands-On Lab: Time and place TBD

Instructor Information

Instructor: Greg Machek, Ph.D.

Email: greg.machek@umontana.edu

Phone: 406.243.5546

Office: Skaggs Bldg. 240

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 11:00-12:00, and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Zachary Shindorf

Email: zachary.shindorf@umontana.edu

Phone:

Office:

Office hours:

Mailbox: Graduate student mailboxes are in Skaggs 141. Please note, that actual assignments should be put in the designated box in the main psych office.

Required Texts

Sattler, J.M., (2008). Assessment of Children: Cognitive Foundations, 5th Edition. San Diego, CA: Jerome Sattler Press

Sattler, J.M. & Ryan, J.J. (2009). Assessment with the WAIS-IV. San Diego, CA: Jerome Sattler Press.

Additional Readings (Moodle)

Additional readings – or other material- will be available on Moodle.

The password for the course page is: Psyx525

Recommended Texts

Flanagan, D. P. & Kaufman, A. S. (2004). Essentials of WISC-IV Assessment. Hoboken, NJ : Wiley.

Lichtenberger, E. O., & Kaufman, A. S. (2009). Essentials of WAIS-IV Assessment. New York: Wiley.

Barram, R. A. & Roid, G. H. (2004). Essentials of Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scales (SBV) Assessment. Hoboken, NJ : Wiley.

Course Objective

The main objective of this course is for students to develop competency in the use, scoring, interpretation, and write-up of commonly used tests of cognitive abilities. Students will further develop initial competence and familiarity with other cognitive measures that they may be asked to administer in professional settings.

Learning Goals (including alignment with selected NASP trainings)

1. Acquire skill in the competent administration, scoring, and interpretation of several individual tests of cognitive functioning (2.1; 2.3; 2.5)
2. Understand the history of intelligence testing (2.10)
3. To understand the legal issues related to the administration and interpretation of intelligence tests (2.10)
4. Understand practical uses of intelligence testing, including their limitations (2.1; 2.3; 2.5; 2.6; 2.10)
5. Exhibit proficiency in relaying assessments results (2.2)
6. To train practitioners who use a scientific approach to evaluation and who understand the theoretical and empirical underpinnings of the construct of intelligence (2.10; 2.11)
7. To understand issues in administration and interpretation when assessing members of minority groups and exceptional populations (2.2; 2.5; 2.10)
8. Understand intelligence test terminology; sources of error in intelligence testing, psychometric properties, standardization of intelligence tests, and appropriate uses of measures of intelligence (2.1)

Course Materials

You will need:

1. Large manila envelopes in which to hand in assigned reports, consent forms (see end of syllabus), protocols, and videotapes due to the confidential nature of the material.
2. DVDs will be needed to record some of your administrations.
If you use any other type of technology (e.g. use a camera with flash drive/hard drive technology), it will be up to you to put that on to a DVD format for grading.
3. A stopwatch is needed for some testing applications. Please find one that is quiet and unobtrusive. I have actually opened up digital ones and disconnected the little electronic speaker. Some have used their smartphones. Either way, make sure that they are as silent as can be.

Optional:

4. Some people prefer to use clipboards for their protocols.
5. With young children, it is often nice to give small tokens of your appreciation. These can also be used when the child seems to lose interest. Stickers usually work well. If you use candy, make sure to ask a parent if it is okay.

Course Guidelines and Policies

Academic Misconduct

All students must exercise academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Withdrawal from course

September 16th (15th day of class) is the last day to drop the course with a full refund. From September 17th – 28th, students can drop with instructor and advisor signature. Dropping between September 29th and December 6th requires a petition.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required. Lectures and class activities will be important to the overall learning experience and cannot be made up. You are expected to contribute to the class through discussion and questions. In some instances, I may have you prepare something for a future class. For example, I may give you specific questions to consider for subsequent readings. I generally expect that you will have done so and will be prepared to discuss.

If absence is unavoidable, please let me know ahead of time. *Unexcused absences may certainly impact your progress in the class and your final grade.*

Testing

You will administer and score seven (7) assessments, broken down as follows:

CHILD FOCUS:

School Psychology students and Clinical Students with a professed career interest in working mainly with child (and/or child & family) clients:

- 4* Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fourth Edition (WISC-IV). 1 of the administrations may be on an adult (pretending to be a child; this could be a cohort member). 3 must be on students 6-16 years of age. *Do not videotape sessions of the WISC-IV for which you use an adult.*
*(One (1) of these four will be your "FINAL": 3+1)
- 2 Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV)
- 1 Stanford-Binet Scale of Intelligence, Fifth Edition (SB:V)

ADULT FOCUS:

Clinical Students with a professed career interest in working mainly with adult clients:

- *4 Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV). 2 of the administrations may be on your cohort members or other Psychology Graduate students (but please do not share results- better yet, have the cohort member "fake it"). 2 must be on adults outside of the program. Many times, you will be able to access U of M students through the Psychology Subject Pool- more later). *Do not videotape sessions of the WAIS-IV for which you use other students in the Psychology Graduate program.*

- *(1 of these four will be your “FINAL”: 3+1)
- 2 Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fourth Edition (WISC-IV).
- 1 Stanford-Binet Scale of Intelligence, Fifth Edition (SB:V)

For GRADING purposes, these administration requirements more specifically break down as follows:

- **6 (“Non-Final”) Protocols (60 points; 15 points for each protocol- only 4 of these are calculated into your *final grade*):**

Your protocols will be evaluated on a 15-point scale (15 = no major errors, 1 point loss for each error; .33 points for each minor error). Of these six “non-final” scores, your two lowest administration scores will be dropped, so the rest add up for a total of 60 (4x15) points possible.

*Please note that you can review all of your own protocols for scoring and administration accuracy to catch your mistakes, before turning them in, except on your final administration. If you catch the mistake it will NOT count against you. Simply provide a brief, but clear, note regarding the mistake and your awareness of what should have done otherwise. Again, however, this does **NOT apply to your Final Administration** (see below).*

First videotape (your second videotape will be your “Final”): ONE (1) of these administrations must be videotaped and it must be with the Wechsler scale of your emphasis (e.g. the WISC-IV for School Psych students, the WAIS-IV for adult-oriented clinical students). See schedule for deadline to turn in this first videotape.

- **Written Reports (6 points each: 18 points possible):**
3 of your “non-Final Administration” submissions will have an accompanying brief report (as noted in the schedule).
- **1 Final Administration (35 points; this will include the protocol, report (worth 10 out of the 35 points), and videotape of the administration):**
This administration also has to be on your Wechsler scale of emphasis (e.g. the WISC-IV for School Psych students and clinical-child students; the WAIS-IV for adult-focused students).

The scoring rubric for this one will include major and minor values twice (2x) that for the other administrations. For example, each Major error will count 2 pts, and each minor error, .66 points. You will want this to be one of your best examples. Students encountering 7 or more points in deductions on the administration (i.e., not the report) will need to redo the administration and may risk taking an “incomplete” in the course.

In general, it is **strongly suggested** that all students give multiple practice assessments to anyone who will sit still before attempting assessments for a grade. Perhaps you can cajole some of your classmates into this (plying them with free food and drink often works).

Class Presentations

These are relatively open in terms of content, though it will need to be something not covered in depth during the class. Topics must be relevant to the course. Some ideas include:

- Presenting on an instrument of cognitive ability not covered in class (we have a couple in the test closet, such as the Wechsler Memory Scales, the Woodcock-Johnson Test of Cognitive Abilities, Third Edition, etc.- please ask);
- Presenting on a research topic of personal interest (e.g. assessing gifted students, cultural bias in IQ testing, use of standardized IQ tests in the assessment of LD, expanding on a particular *theory* of intelligence).

Please see larger list of possible topics at the end of the syllabus.

If done individually, these should take about 30 minutes. You may partner up to do these presentations, though I will expect you to take about 50 minutes if two people are presenting. ***Each presentation should be done using visual aids, such as PowerPoint, and should be accompanied by appropriate hardcopy handouts. Topics for presentation must be submitted by September 30th.*** We can talk further about format and content during the semester and I will provide a handout of content areas to cover if you are presenting on another test battery. If you are covering another issue (e.g. giftedness assessment), then I would encourage you to set up a time to discuss your presentation content with me. **Again, please be aware of the time limit and plan accordingly. It does not take too many slides/information to cover 30 minutes, or so, of time.**

Deadlines

Protocols, reports, and observed assessments are to be conducted across the course of the semester. Please see the class schedule for times in which test protocols/reports are due. Lateness will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day late. However, if there are dire circumstances that preclude you from getting them in on time, please talk to me AS SOON AS YOU ARE AWARE OF IT, and we can try to work something out. **You may turn in protocols, reports, and videos early, as well.**

Subjects

You will need to locate your own testing subjects. These cannot be children or adults who are being evaluated for services OR receiving services. Friends, neighbors, children of friends, and university students are all possible resources. Do NOT test the same person more than once with the same test. Do NOT use your own child for one of the videotaped (including final) versions. Also, as mentioned earlier, do NOT use a class peer (or any other psych graduate student) for any of the videotaped administrations, please. BEFORE testing subjects, you must secure their permission, or, in the case of minors, of their parents or legal guardian(s). Consent forms are included on the last pages. Please make copies of those. Do not try to recruit subjects at any institution (e.g. hospital, school).

Special Note: For WAIS-IV administrations, Psyx100 students can be accessed. I will hand out proper forms and go through protocol for this at a later date.

Confidentiality of subjects

Please note that consent/permission forms need to be handed in a separate envelope from the one in which you hand in the report/protocol/video. On both packets/envelopes, make sure that you write the type and number of test, and your name (Mary Whipple, WISC-IV #3). This way, we can make sure that every test had the proper consent/permission form handed in with it.

Additionally, all reports and protocols should be de-identified. That is, only pseudonyms (fictitious names) should be used.

Result

No results generated from testing requirements for this class are to be disseminated to anyone other than the instructor and graduate assistants (this includes any portion of a written report). Because this course is a skill development course, it is probable that many, even most, of the test administrations will have some errors and, thus, limited reliability and validity. Therefore it is imperative that these reports NOT be used for decision-making purposes. Violations of this practice will be considered a serious breach of professional ethics. Curious parents or examinees can be told that it is being done only for training purposes and that you are not allowed, by policy, to give results. However, you can tell caregivers that the experience is meant to be a positive one, and tell possible subjects that the experience will be interesting, challenging, and maybe fun!

Grading

Best 4 scores from your first 6, Non-Final, Protocols/administrations: **60 points**

3 "Non-Final" Written reports: **18 points**

Presentation: **20 points**

Final Administration Protocol, Report, & Videotape: **35 points**

Participation: **15 points**

Total: 148 points

A = 94 – 100%

A- = 90-93%

B+ = 87-89%

B = 84 - 86%

B- = 80-83%

C+ = 77-79%

C = 74 -76%

C- = 70-73%

Etc.

Projected Timeline

Please note that this timeline is subject to change, as are specific readings. I will try to give ample forewarning if this happens.

Date	Topic	Reading	Due
8/26	Introductions/Syllabus	Syllabus	
8/28	The Assessment Process Introduction; History & Theories	Sattler Ch. 1 & 7	
9/2	Labor Day—No Class		
9/4	History & Theories, cont.	Sattler, Ch. 7, CONT.; Gardner (1995); Frazier & Youngstrom (2007); Carroll (Ch. 4; 2005)	
9/9	General Administrative Considerations; WISC-IV Use	Sattler Ch. 6; Start to look over Sattler Chaps. 9 & 10	
9/11	WISC-IV Use, cont.	Continue last week's	Likely lab week

Date	Topic	Reading	Due
9/16	WISC-IV Practice		
9/17	WISC-IV Practice; Selected Statistical Concepts	Start reading Sattler, Ch. 4	
9/23	WISC-IV Scoring & Analysis; Continue Selected Statistical Concepts	Sattler, Ch. 4, cont.	Presentation Topics Due Likely Lab Week
9/25	WAIS-IV Use	Sattler & Ryan Chaps. 2 & 3	
9/30	WAIS-IV, cont.		
10/2	WAIS scoring & Analysis; Wechsler Interpretation Basics	Sattler & Ryan Ch. 4; Sattler, Ch. 11	
10/7	Wechsler Interpretation: Critical Considerations; Some “common” profiles	Watkins, Glutting & Youngstrom (Ch. 12; 2005); Hale & Fiorello (NASP Communique,; 2002); Watkins, Glutting & Lei (2007); Gresham and Witt, (1997); Mather & Wendling (Ch. 13; 2005); Rogers, et al. (2011)	1st Protocol Due (WISC)
10/9	The GAI WISC-IV/WAIS-III Report Writing	Sattler Ch 19; Kamphaus, Ch. 18; Saklofske et al. Ch 2 (2005)- especially section on the ‘GAI’	
10/14	Report Writing, cont.	Continue report writing readings from previous class;	
10/16	SB:V Overview, Technical Issues, and Administration		
10/21	SB:V Practice		2nd Protocol Due (W/ report)
10/23	Heated Issues: Issues Pertaining to Race and IQ (& Gender Differences); Malleability of Intelligence	Sattler, Ch. 5 & 8; Suzuki & Valencia (1997); Halpern (1997); Ceci and Williams, (1997); Sternberg (1996); Neisser (1997); Nisbett, et al. (2012)	
10/28	Heated Issues (cont.- if needed); Ethical guidelines	Sattler Ch. 3; Please look up, and bring to class, both NASP and APA ethical guidelines regarding assessment American Psychological Association (APA) Ethical Principles National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Professional Conduct Manual http://www.nasponline.org/standards/2010standards/1_%20Ethical%20Principles.pdf	
10/30	Presentation of a Non-		

Date	Topic	Reading	Due
	Verbal IQ Test		
11/4	Non-Verbal, cont.; Assessing LDs		3rd Protocol (NO Report)
11/6	Assessing MR & LD	Kamphaus (Ch. 20; 2005); Spruill, Oakland & Harrison (Ch. 9; 2005); Machek & Nelson (2007); Machek & Nelson (2010); Tanaka, et al. (2012)	
11/11	Veteran's Day—No Class		4th Protocol (W/ Report) due
11/13	Assessing MR & LD, Cont.	Kamphaus (Ch. 20; 2005); Spruill, Oakland & Harrison (Ch. 9; 2005); Machek & Nelson (2007); Machek & Nelson (2010); Tanaka, et al. (2011)	
11/18	Presentations/ Meetings		5th Protocol (W/ Video - NO Report) Due
11/20	No Class— Thanksgiving		
11/25	Presentations/ Meetings		
11/27	No Class-- Thanksgiving		6th Protocol (W/ Report) Due (By end of Tuesday, 26th)
12/2	Presentations		
12/4	Presentations		Final (7th) Due (W/ videotape, and report)

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Scoring Rubric

(Subject to modifications)

Majors Errors

1. Inappropriate basal or ceiling
2. Incorrect computation(s) (e.g. summation of scaled scores or raw scores, incorrect computation of CA, incorrect transformation of standard scores, etc.)
3. Omission of Query/Prompt when indicated
4. Omission of subtests
5. Incorrect transformation of standard scores
6. Administering wrong subtest (E.g.: Coding A/B)
7. Failure to give example or sample item where required (administration of samples must be recorded on protocol)
8. Failure to use stimulus book if required (be careful of this, especially with Vocabulary)
9. Administering items or subtests in wrong order.
10. "Other" obvious situations which break from standardization, such as:
 - Not consistently reading the standardized instructions, teaching items, prompts, etc.
 - Poor physical set-up, such as too much extraneous noise/distractions, or severe deviation from physical set-up mentioned in administration manual.
(I take into consideration that same things will be beyond your control, and that we will not always have the perfect environment)

Minors Errors

1. Judgment, i.e., assignment of inappropriate credit or failure to give appropriate credit on items (Similarities, Vocab., Comp.)
2. Omission of Query
3. Wrong starting level
4. Misreading chart in recording percentiles
5. Time not recorded when necessary
6. Failure to appropriately record examinee's responses

7. Failure to provide all proper verbatim instructions (This is commonly encountered on L-NS on the WISC)
8. Doing ipsative analysis on “Overall” mean when there is a PRI-VCI discrepancy (stat. sig. AND low Base Rate), and vice versa.
9. “Other” basic administration errors, such as:
 - incorrect base rates, percentiles, etc.
 - failure to present Block Design blocks properly, or failure to scramble blocks after each administration.
 - Consistently administering Digit Span items too quickly or too slowly.

This is likely not an exhaustive list. Errors encountered that do NOT accurately fit the above categories will be evaluated at the instructor and TA’s discretion.

Note: If in reviewing your practice protocols you realize you made a mistake, note the error in the margin of the protocol and it will not be counted against you. This applies to all protocols except the final.

Possible Presentation Topics

Assessment of Learning Disabilities: Past and present practices and related debate (This would be an excellent choice for a school psych student.)

Assessment of the deaf and hard of hearing

Assessment of the visually impaired or blind

The presentation of an individually administered intelligence test not covered in this class:

- The Universal Nonverbal Intelligence Test (UNIT)
- The Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, Third Edition (WPPSI-III)
- The Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence (WASI)
- The Bayley Scales of Infant Development-II

Assessment of cognitive giftedness

Ceiling effects and other issues specific to the testing of intellectually gifted students

Issues in the intellectual testing of NA students

Emotional Intelligence

The use of individual norm-referenced tests of intelligence in the determination of specific learning disabilities

A look at cultural bias in intelligence testing: evidence for and against

Best Practices in using IQ tests with culturally and/or linguistically diverse populations

Issues in assessing Preschoolers with IQ tests

Cognitive changes throughout the lifespan

A thorough presentation on a specific theory of intelligence

- Gardner's Multiple Intelligences
- Sternberg's Triarchic theory
- PASS (Planning, Attention, Simultaneous, Successive) Theory
- CHC (Cattell-Horn-Carroll) Theory of cognitive abilities

Nature vs. Nurture in intelligence

An elucidation on historical perspectives and influences not covered in class

Note: I have texts, articles, or chapters, for most of these subjects. So, please inquire into these to help get you started.

Bibliography of Readings

- Carrol, J. (2005). The Three Startum theory of cognitive abilities. In Flanagan, D. P., & Harrison, P. L. (Eds.). *Contemporary Intellectual Assessment--Theories, Tests, and Issues* (2nd ed.). New York: Guilford Press
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- Frazier, T.W., & Youngstrom, E.A. (2007). Historical increase in the number of factors measured by commercial test of cognitive ability: Are we overfactoring? *Intelligence*, 35, 169-182.
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